

Special Thanks

University of Missouri
MU Health Care
Columbia Public Schools
Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA)
Columbia residents
Mayor Brian Treece
Columbia City Council
City Manager John Glascock
Parks and Recreation Commission
Convention and Visitors Bureau Advisory Board



Photo taken October 2018



Photo taken August 2019



Gans Creek Recreation Area
Friday, Sept. 27, 2019



Health Care



The Gans Creek Cross Country Course is a new championship-level course, designed to host major cross country competitive events. The course will be the home of the University of Missouri cross country team.

Parks and Recreation staff worked with the University to take advantage of the site's natural terrain in the design of the course. It was designed and constructed with 2K and 3K loops, a 500-meter starting chute, 30-foot-wide irrigated turf, finish line structure and timing tower. The course can easily accommodate spectators with a raised viewing area and various vantage points. All cross country and timing tower construction to date has been accomplished by Parks and Recreation staff.

The Gans Creek Cross Country Course will host major cross country events, including the Missouri State High School Championships in November 2019. The course will host the SEC Championship in 2021 and will be made available for meets hosted by local track clubs, high schools, middle schools and other colleges, as well as recreational runners.

The idea for the cross country course came from the lack of a dedicated course in the region. As part of the initial public input process for the 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, Mizzou cross country coaches recommended the use of Gans Creek Recreation Area as a cross country course. In 2016, Columbia Public Schools approached Parks and Recreation about available land that could be used for cross country meets. All parties collaborated to consider sites and reached consensus that Gans Creek Recreation Area was the best location.

Funding for the course was made possible through the voter-approved Park Sales Tax and through contributions by the University of Missouri and MU Health Care. Future amenities will include an athletic pavilion and a race coordinator/media headquarters.

We appreciate the support from our partners, as well as Columbia residents, making projects such as this one possible.

Gans Creek Cross Country Course dedication

4:15 p.m., Sept. 27, 2019

Opening ~ Mike Griggs, Director, Columbia Parks and Recreation

Remarks ~ Mayor Brian Treece, City of Columbia

Remarks ~ Jim Sterk, University of Missouri

Remarks ~ Kerwin Urhahn, Missouri State High School Activities Association

Remarks ~ Jonathan Curtright, MU Health Care

Remarks ~ Brett Halter, Mizzou track and field head coach

Conclusion ~ Mike Griggs

Ribbon Cutting with Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors

National Anthem ~ Reilly Revord, Mizzou cross country student

Gans Creek Classic athlete

City Council

Brian Treece, Mayor

Clyde Ruffin

Michael Trapp

Karl Skala

Ian Thomas

Matt Pitzer

Betsy Peters

John Glascock, City Manager

Mike Griggs, Parks and Recreation Director

Columbia Parks and Recreation Commission

Dan Devine, Ted Farnen, Marin Blevins, Sue Davis,

Meredith Donaldson and Chad Henry